



Casemate

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Man of Honor

The life of diver Carl Brashear has been an inspirational story

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

*"If you can keep your head when
all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on
you,*

*If you can trust yourself when all
men doubt you*

*But make allowance for their
doubting too,*

*If you can wait and not be tired by
waiting,*

*Or being lied about, don't deal in
lies,*

*Or being hated, don't give way to
hating,*

*And yet don't look too good, nor
talk too wise,"*

Rudyard Kipling,
giving fatherly advice to a son

Fatherly advice can propel a child, wise enough to listen, from the most humble circumstances to great heights of endeavor, as seen in the life of Carl Brashear.

"My father was a very strong man," said Brashear during an exclusive interview with the Casemate at his Virginia Beach

home Jan. 29. "My father always said 'No matter what you do, be the best and don't ever quit.'"

Brashear became the first black Master Diver in the Navy and the first amputee retained on active duty. The movie "Men of Honor," released in 2000, was based on Brashear's military achievements.

Brashear is one of nine children whose devoted parents were Kentucky sharecroppers, which seems an unlikely background for a diver.

"One of my brothers threw me in the water at age five and I became an 'instant swimmer,'" Brashear said with a laugh.

So, from time's current vantage point, it seems life's natural progression for someone "born to swim" would be to earn the title of Master Diver. Yet, reality tried to say, "Not so."

When Brashear was 17, he decided to join the Army.

"I went to Fort Knox to join the Army because my brother-in-law was in the Army," he said. "The first

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Post officials fire up information channel

BY PATRICK BUFFETT
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Upcoming installation events, hours of operation, and post emergency and force protection notices are among the offerings of Fort Monroe's new Command Channel, which began airing Feb. 2.

Carried on Cox cable 47, the Monroe station will operate "24-7" and can be viewed by all residents and employees on post, according to command officials. The basic programming format has been established, and additional modifications — such as extending access

off post by using web-enabled software and adding background music — are on the way.

"This has been a pet project of mine for quite some time," said Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, post commander. "One of the biggest hurdles faced by any commander is to establish effective lines of communication with every member of his community. Some of the ways we do that here include town hall

meetings, the front-gate marquee and the post newspaper, but all of those have inherent drawbacks."

Town hall meetings, for instance, are only as effective as community attendance allows. The Casemate draws frequent praise from Allmendinger — he refers to it often as a "world-class" publication — however, its bi-weekly production

(See CHANNEL, Page 5)

Fort Monroe 47
THE COMMAND CHANNEL

Commentary

Chaplain's corner

Always remember, 'Don't lose faith'

Just inside the Chapel Center next to the secretary's desk is a piece of old wood with an inscription that reads "Don't Lose Faith." This piece of wood was discovered in the Chapel Center when a demolition team came in to discard everything that was damaged by Hurricane Isabel. They not only removed damaged items, but removed mold and other hazards that could affect the health of staff and parishioners.

The amazing thing about the discovery of this piece of wood is that the inscribed words spoke to the staff and the workers, and we found ourselves saying to each other, "Don't lose faith."

It has become an in-house saying throughout the entire renovation project. Here was a piece of wood, long forgotten in a closet, yet it was preserved for such a time as this. God preserved this old piece of wood to remind us that in the midst of confusion and bewilderment, He is here and we are not forgotten. And, no matter what life throws at us, God is with us.

Since then, every time I pass by and see those words, I'm reminded

that God is with me, and this gives me much hope for whatever I may face in life. I discovered God sometimes reveals Himself in the strangest places. He uses things we have taken for granted and things we believe we have no use for to make His presence known, and sometimes that might be through a piece of dried old wood. God does speak to us in many mysterious ways, if only we would take the time to listen.

The Chapel Center is practically in the same condition the demolition team left it. Offices spaces and classrooms for Sunday School and KIDS Church are gutted out, and walls that were colorful and delightful to look at now stand bare and hollow.

But, what continues to amaze me is the faith of staff and parishioners. There is still a love and spirit that permeates the entire Chapel Center and the worship services.

These people worship regularly at the Chapel of the Centurion, and their faith is as strong as ever. They may have lost some of the amenities, but they have not lost their faith in God. They have discovered that with or without a building, faith in God must be paramount if there is to be true

worship. When faith in God is exercised, there will be true worship despite the conditions in which we may find ourselves.

The more I think of the power of faith in life's transitions and what faith does in times of crises, I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote to a church in the city of Corinth. Here was a church that was riddled with trials and disappointments. He wrote words to encourage them to continue to place their faith in God despite the circumstances they faced. In II Corinthians 4:16-18, he penned the following words of faith.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things, which are seen, but at the things, which are not seen. For things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Yes, there are temporary things and there are eternal things, and, with faith, we focus on the eternal and not on that which is temporary.



Chaplain (Maj.) Wilbert Harrison
Post Chaplain

So, the next time you are in the area, stop by the Chapel Center. When you walk in, you will see on the counter next to the secretary's desk, a plain piece of wood with the words inscribed, "Don't lose faith."

Faith in God is joy and peace. Faith in what is temporary will leave you with anguish and disappointment. Remember, "Don't lose faith." God is with you.

PRAYER BREAKFAST



Photo by Wes Anderson

Denbigh High School Troubadours sing "Let Freedom Ring," during the Feb. 2 prayer breakfast at the Bay Breeze Community Center. They also sang "Shut de Do" and "The Last Words of David."

CFC scores a major success

**Monroe, TRADOC
each exceed goals;
\$1.79 million is raised**

BY TIM RAFALSKI
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

The Fort Monroe community showed one of the largest increases in surpassing its goal, while TRADOC also exceeded its goal for the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign.

In all, the CFC raised \$1,790,245 on the Virginia Peninsula from mid-September through the end of November last year. The total was right around the goal of \$1.8 million, but slightly down from the 2002 total of \$1,894,123.

Fort Monroe took in \$77,464, which was a 45-percent increase over its 2002 total of \$53,485. Fort Monroe showed the largest

increase out of any organization that collected over \$10,000 in 2003.

TRADOC had the fifth highest overall donation total, bringing in \$142,615. That total was a 5-percent increase over the 2002 sum, and easily exceeded TRADOC's goal of \$128,000.

"This was the best year as a team effort, because every agency either made their goal or came very close, and that's never happened in the past," said Gerald Compton, who chaired the local federal coordinating agency committee. "To do that well, it really took a team effort."

The annual CFC Victory Luncheon was held Jan. 23. TRADOC Commander Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, who chaired the 2003 campaign, presented plaques to donating organizations at the luncheon. Byrnes will chair the CFC again in 2004.

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MP Roll Call

The MP Roll Call is designed to provide a link between the Provost Marshal's office and the Fort Monroe community regarding law enforcement operations, services and crime statistics, and how operations and services combine with other Fort Monroe initiatives to keep the community safe daily. Call 788-2220 with any comments or concerns that need to be addressed. Detailed information concerning the fort's security posture will not be published.

What you should know about Form 1408

Moving violations will count on the military points system

BY SPC BARBOZA

There have been many questions and misunderstandings about the Armed Forces Traffic Ticket DD Form 1408, commonly referred to as a 1408.

The DD Form 1408 is not a money ticket. You don't have to pay any money if you are issued a 1408, but a copy of the ticket will be sent to the chain of command of military members for action to be taken, if the military member or any of their dependents receive a 1408. The supervisor of DoD civilians will also receive a copy of the ticket for action to be taken.

The ticket can have an impact on your driving privilege because 1408s are assessed points via the Fort Monroe points system. The points can follow you to your next duty station, and if you continue to violate that installation's driving regulations, you could have your driving privilege suspended or revoked

at the gaining duty station.

The vast majority of 1408s issued on Fort Monroe are for parking violations due to the limited parking on the installation. Parking violations carry no points. However, your driving privilege could be suspended — time to be determined by the Garrison Commander — if you receive three parking tickets within a six-month period.

Enforcement minimizes congestion, facilitates traffic flow and reduces safety hazards associated with illegal parking. Moving violations do carry the point system and will be enforced.

The points system, which uses DD Forms 1408 or 1805, is used by the Military Police to track the total number of violations a driver commits on Fort Monroe. You will receive an advisory letter through the unit commander or supervisor if you receive six points in a six-month period.

If you receive more than six points but less than 12 in a six-

month period, you will be counseled by your supervisor, recommending a driver-improvement course, medical evaluation or a referral to an alcohol or drug rehabilitation facility.

Your driving privilege will be suspended or revoked if you receive 12 points within 12 consecutive months or 18 points within 24 consecutive months. Any revocation based on traffic points will be no less than six months.

For any further questions about the Armed Forces Traffic Ticket or the Driving Points System, contact Sgt. David Koen, Traffic NCOIC, at 788-3382.

Parking notices

■ Effective Feb. 15, parking permits are required for all colonels, GS-15s and LNOs to park in designated parking areas inside the moat (Bldg. 5 area) and the command complex (small parking lot near Bldg. 163).

Personnel eligible for parking permits can obtain them at the Vehicle Registration Office (Bldg. 87) by presenting a valid ID card.

After Feb. 15, MPs will give citations (1408s) to offenders.

Top-10 things heard during ID checks

10. "You don't REALLY have bullets in that gun, do you?"
9. "I don't have to show you my ID, I outrank you!"
8. "I have stickers. Why do I have to show ID?"
7. "This is my friend's/significant other's car and my ID is at home."
6. "I was told I didn't need it!"
5. "The carwash ate the stickers off my car!"
4. "None of the other bases do it!"
3. From passenger: "I have to show my ID also?"
2. "ID card? It's on the bumper!"
1. In the middle of a hurricane, someone said, "Stay dry!"

No points will be accrued, but the person's chain of command will be notified. There will be no fine, but the offense will be added to the person's Fort Monroe driving record.

■ Everybody must renew their city stickers no later than Feb. 15.

Active duty military members can receive a free Hampton City sticker if they are

non-Virginia residents living on Fort Monroe or in Hampton whose vehicles are registered in Virginia and registered in the military member's name only.

Service members must present a valid military ID card, registration and LES proving out-of-state residency to the Fort Monroe Vehicle Registration Office

■ The vehicle registration office (Bldg. 87) is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m.

MPI Information

■ Larceny of government property took place in Bldg. 28. There was a government laptop computer taken.

■ Two multimedia projectors were taken from Bldg. 5. There is a \$1,600 reward for the information leading to the apprehension of the individual(s) involved in this case.

If you have any information on these two cases, please contact MPI at 788-2050/2350.

Got a story or photo idea?

Contact the Casemate at 788-3520 or 788-3531

3X6 W.Va. State Park

3X6 Florist

3 X 14 Freedom stores

CAC director to travel overseas

Sigler accepts MWR position in Afghanistan

BY TIM RAFALSKI
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Shortly after Christmas, Beth Sigler stopped at Hardee's for lunch with a friend. Who knew Sigler, Youth Services Director at the Community Activities Center, would have her world turned upside by the time she left?

During that lunch Sigler received a surprising call offering her a MWR position in Kandahar, Afghanistan, which she had volunteered for more than a year ago.

"I was dumbfounded because it had been so long and I had forgotten about it, and it really caught me by surprise," said Sigler, who has worked at Fort Monroe for five years. "I said, 'I'd like to get some more information before I give you a confirmation.' The very next day I get a call from a lady at the Department of the Army, and she answered my 101 questions — although, since then I've had another million and one. I said, 'Sure, as long as they'll release me from my work I'll do it.' And I was able to be released."

It would be an understatement to say life has been a little hectic for Sigler since accepting the position. She knew there would be plenty of work making sure everything was in order in her personal life and at the CAC, which will see Mike Jones taking over as interim director, but the most tasking endeavor for Sigler has been just finding out when she'll leave.

"When I finally got my official orders, which was this past Monday (Jan. 26), they indicated that I was to leave this coming Sunday (Feb. 1)," she said. "There was no way. I had just gotten the official orders and there were too many things to be taken care of with those official orders that I don't have enough time. So I have asked for a more reasonable target date of leaving on the 15th (of February). So that's what I'm shooting for."

Sigler will first report to Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga., for a week of training. She'll then fly to Germany before catching a military flight to Afghanistan, where she'll spend the next six months.

Aside from those details, Sigler isn't sure what to expect from her trip.

"The anticipation has been killing me all along, ever since I finally said,

"I've worked for the federal government for 25 years, and I've been afforded some neat opportunities to develop myself personally and professionally, and I view this as another opportunity to do just that."

Beth Sigler
Youth Services Director
at the Community
Activity Center

"Yes," the Green Castle, Pa., native said. "I was scared at first because it's so overwhelming, everything that you have to get ready in order to go.

"The excitement, yeah, that's there. And I'd be lying to tell you that I wasn't scared, because it is a war zone. I didn't enlist in the Army, I don't want to carry a gun, I don't want to shoot at people and I don't want people shooting at me. But that's where I'm going to be at. Hopefully I'm not going to be close to the real fighting."

Although she's only allowed to take one suitcase, two things Sigler will be taking on the trip are a laptop computer and a digital camera. She hopes to be able to send back pictures documenting her experience to help give the school-aged kids an idea of what's going on halfway around the world. She'd also like to set up communications between kids at the CAC and the Soldiers in Afghanistan.

"Maybe even establish some sort of pen-pal thing between the boys and girls here and the Soldiers there," said Sigler. "Especially maybe the young Soldiers that aren't married, that all they have is Mom and Dad to write to back home. If we can set up some sort of e-mail communication between some high school student here that's looking for a pen pal and a young Soldier over there, I think that would be kind of neat."

And aside from helping others, Sigler knows there will be plenty she can get out of this trip for herself.

"This is definitely an opportunity of a lifetime," she said. "Not that many people can say that they have had the chance to be this close to a war zone and provide recreational services to the Soldiers who have been at the front line, so they can relieve some stress, so they can feel a connection to home and relax a little bit before they go back to the front line. It was very rewarding for me personally, and I think it will help me grow professionally as well.

"I'm sure it will be a test of me in many ways. Really, that wasn't the whole intent on volunteering. ... I try to ask myself, 'Why did I volunteer to do this?' The only answer I could think of was that I've worked in the federal government for 25 years, and I've been afforded some neat opportunities to develop myself personally and professionally, and I view this as another opportunity to do just that. And I think this is an extraordinary opportunity to do just that, and I'd be very foolish to pass it up. I didn't pass up those other opportunities when they came knocking at the door, so I wasn't going to pass this one up."

Army '05 budget covers more off-post living costs

Plan covers average raises of 3.5 percent for Soldiers

BY SPC. LORIE JEWELL
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (Feb. 3, 2004) — At \$98.5 billion, the Army's proposed spending plan for fiscal year 2005 covers average pay raises of 3.5 percent for Soldiers and 1.5 percent for civilians, and eliminates out-of-pocket expenses for living off-post, according to a senior Army official.

The budget also funds the fifth Stryker Brigade in Hawaii, improves Humvee armor, expands the Rapid Fielding Initiative and calls for 5,000 military positions to be converted to civilian jobs.

Pay increases and other personnel costs claim the biggest chunk — about 39 percent — of the FY '05 budget, which would take effect Oct. 1, 2004 following approval by Congress. It maintains a force of 482,400 active duty Soldiers; 350,000 National Guard members; 205,000 reserve Soldiers; and 229,000 civilians.

The FY 05 budget doesn't include money to pay for continued operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the official noted. Those expenses

will be covered with an expected supplemental allotment, he said. Congress authorized a supplement of nearly \$39 billion for the current fiscal year.

The official said the proposed budget focuses on keeping the Army relevant and ready as Soldiers continue fighting the Global War on Terrorism, while maintaining other campaigns and commitments around the world. At the same time, the Army is dedicated to transforming itself into a future force capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century with a joint expeditionary mindset, he added.

"You can't put a price on our freedom and way of life," the official said.

The budget also includes \$32.6 billion, or 33 percent of the total budget, for operations and maintenance.

The procurement portion of the budget stands at \$10.4 billion, or 11 percent of the budget — the same amount allocated to research, development, testing and evaluation. Highlights of the sections include funding for:

- The fifth Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), 25th Infantry Division (Light), Hawaii.
- Rapid Fielding Initiative, with emphasis on adding improved night vision devices and small, hand-held radios.

■ The future combat system, one of the Army's highest priorities, a multi-functional, multi-mission, reconfigurable

system of systems.

■ Warfighter Information Network — Tactical, known as WIN-T, a tactical digital communica-

tions system that provides advanced commercial-based networking capabilities to the future force.

The budget sets aside

\$2.1 billion for military construction, or 2 percent of the total spending plan, and \$1.6 billion for Army family housing.

4 X 12 Verizon

CHANNEL (Continued from Page 1)

schedule isn't very effective for day-to-day communication, especially emergency notices and the like.

"It also gives us other programming options that we may exercise in the future, such as showing video of key events, like town hall meetings or our ethnic observances," Allmendinger said, also emphasizing that the technology is new and his staff is following the training axiom of crawl-walk-run, which means some additions will take time and study to insure compliance with Army and DoD regulations.

"Right now, the immediate challenge is to streamline the flow of information," the colonel said. "We need to get the right

people submitting command-channel-worthy material in a timely manner."

The Post Public Affairs Office is currently serving as the sole point of contact for Command Channel postings. Individuals or agencies — to include tenant organizations — are asked to work through their regular marketing or public affairs channels to submit information about their upcoming events. Contributors are also encouraged to take a look at the current programming to acquaint themselves with the Command Channel format.

Postings can be sent to buffettp@monroe.army.mil or richarde@monroe.army.mil.

Craven Health Clinic continues recovery from hurricane effects

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

As with many buildings at Fort Monroe, Craven Health Clinic was dealt some hard blows by Hurricane Isabel. Although recovery has seemed slow at times, the clinic will soon be back on its feet.

“We are at about 90 percent,” said Anthony Demestih​as, deputy commander of the Craven Army Health Clinic, during a Jan. 29 meeting.

Demestih​as expects the clinic to be 100 percent functional around the third week of February. Final touch-

es to the pharmacy need to be made, and physical therapy needs to be equipped.

“It’s really the little things that are holding us up now,” he said.

Demestih​as is very appreciative of the patience exhibited by those who use the clinic’s services.

“When people could not get appointments very fast, they were still very understanding,” he said. “That means a lot.”

www.monroe.army.mil/casemate

CCC offering scholarships

The Casemate Community Connection offers merit-based scholarships to high-school seniors and spouses for continuing education.

All applicants must be DoD ID card holders. Applicants must submit a completed application form, official (raised seal) school transcripts, official copies of college entrance exam results and a typed, 500-word essay expressing educational objectives and career goals and their importance.

Another requirement, which is new this year, is an on-site written essay scheduled for April 3 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Fitness Center. Bring a dictionary and pen; laptops are not allowed.

Pick up an application on post at the Community Activities Center, Army Community Services, Fitness Center or Thrift Shop.

Mail the application package to CCC Scholarship Chairperson, P.O. Box 51114, Fort Monroe, VA 23651. The mailing must be postmarked by March 29 and scholarship winners will be announced in May.

For more information, call 788-3619.

3 X 10 USAA

3 X 10 1/2 Busch Gardens

News clips

Valentine's bouquets

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is offering three gift packages for Valentine's Day. Bouquet 1 includes a dozen carnations of assorted colors, balloons, candy and a stuffed animal for \$20.

Bouquet 2 has half-dozen carnations, balloons, candy and stuffed animal for \$14. Bouquet 3 includes balloons, candy and stuffed animal for \$8. Bouquets will be delivered free Feb. 13 to any address on post. To place an order call the BOSS office at 684-4465.

Welfare Campaign

Any local agency or organization that would like to request welfare funds from the Casemate Community Connection should contact Karen Page, Welfare Chair, at 596-8033. Leave your name, mailing address

and phone number to receive an application, which must be post-marked no later than April 4. President's Day All Fort Monroe Exchange Facilities will be closed Feb. 16 in honor of President's Day.

Stryker defense proven

MOSUL, Iraq, Feb. 3, 2004 — A change made to the Stryker infantry vehicle has proven itself in combat. The Stryker, an eight-wheeled infantry transporter, is an armored vehicle designed to stop 14.5 mm rounds. Critics said the main threat in Iraq is rocket-propelled grenades, and that the vehicle would not provide protection from them. Army officials outfitted the Strykers with what the soldiers call a "cage." The slat armor put on the vehicles in Kuwait does look like a cage. It encircles the vehicle and gives added protection to the body of the Stryker.

Myth of the Month

February

Myth: Alcohol Warms The Body.

Fact: A drink of brandy, whiskey or other alcoholic beverages is poor medicine in cold weather. The use of alcoholic beverages may impact a sensation of warmth to the body by creating surface heat, but as the blood is brought to the skin's surface, the body loses heat and the body temperature is actually lowered.

Have questions or need assistance? Call Bruce McFadden, Army Substance Abuse Program Soldier and Family Support Center, 788-3510 or e-mail mcfaddenb@monroe.army.mil.

5 X 12 Suncom

Traveling training

Former post resident leads training in Iraq

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

In line with TRADOC's goal to "put follow-on training where it's needed, when it's needed," as expressed by Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, TRADOC commander, in a Jan. 23 Casemate article, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the Screaming Eagles, took air assault training on the road last fall.

Over a 15-week period, Capt. Brian Beckno, commander of the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Ky., and a cadre of NCO instructors trained 2,193 troops, with 93 percent receiving their assault badges in an unpredictable combat zone.

Beckno lived on Fort Monroe in the mid-1980s when his father, Lt. Col. John Beckno, was stationed here. His family later moved to Hampton when his father retired and began working for TRADOC as a DA civil servant.

Beckno answered the following questions concerning lessons learned after providing airborne assault training in Iraq.

What is the mission of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)?

"Train to maintain combat readiness needed to deploy rapidly anywhere in the world, to fight and win, and to sustain combat operations." (From the Division's Intranet)

Why were Soldiers trained in Iraq instead of in the U.S.?

The 101st Airborne Division's leadership saw the critical need to maintain air assault readiness and proficiency at the small-unit level. The division was unable to conduct any air assault skills training with its commitment to Operation Iraqi Freedom starting in early January 2002.

With 101st Soldiers leaving northern Iraq due to permanent change of station, end of term of service or as casualties, the division was losing almost 250 air-assault-qualified Soldiers every plane load. They were returning to Fort Campbell.

What were the training requirements (other than the physical requirements) to receive an air assault badge?

We conducted a six-day air assault program of instruction with the students living at the

school. Their days started at 4 a.m. and training typically ended at 7 p.m.

We had a training classroom and rigging bays for our sling-load training where we taught our students how to properly prepare, rig and inspect Army equipment for helicopter sling-load operations. Two rappelling towers were constructed by a reserve engineer company from Santa Fe, N.M.

And, we also constructed a helicopter landing zone at the school to facilitate our slingload training and to conduct the 90-foot aircraft rappel from a UH-60 Blackhawk.

What is the value of an air assault badge?

Earning the air assault badge in the 101st is very special. Wearing the Screaming Eagle patch on our shoulders makes us the "band of brothers," but wearing the coveted air assault wings makes us air assault Soldiers having special training and skills unique to being assigned to the only and most powerful air assault division in the world!

How is training different during wartime or in a hot war area?

Taking the school to Iraq brought a new meaning to "train as you fight."

As we trained our student-Soldiers, we often heard of 101st Soldiers wounded or killed from enemy contact — many of them close comrades of the students and my school cadre.

The airbase where we conducted the school was attacked with 107 mm rockets three separate times, (which is) definitely something we don't worry about back at Fort Campbell.

We trained the same as we do at Fort Campbell. We adjusted

training as needed due to the heat, but all considered, we trained to standard — a very high standard for a school in a combat zone.

What were some of the lessons learned?

Training is so important regardless of circumstances. You find the resources and make the mission happen because Soldiers and leaders need constant training ... and our system of training works.

It's all about standards, enforcement of them and giving NCOs the time and resources to train their Soldiers everyday.

Did it seem that Soldiers were being given more to do when attention needed to be placed on the war? In other words, was training a distraction?

Training is never a distraction. However, some units did not attend the course due to operational changes created by the enemy.

Smart decisions were made by the division's leadership to ensure Soldiers continued to train without sacrificing force protection or operational missions. We almost cancelled one class. However, we continued to train despite the enemy's activities.

How close were you to actual conflicts? Was there any imminent threat?

At Qayyarah West (Q-West) Airfield, our school's location and the location of the 1st Brigade Combat Team from the 101st ABN DIV (AASLT), there was no imminent threat.

However, the enemy's most dangerous course of action at Q-West was the use of indirect fire assets. And, that's exactly what he did — shoot 107 mm rockets into the forward operating base with hopes of creating casualties. They were not successful, close though.

What were the advantages of providing the training in Iraq?

We took the school to the Soldiers, (which) allowed them to get

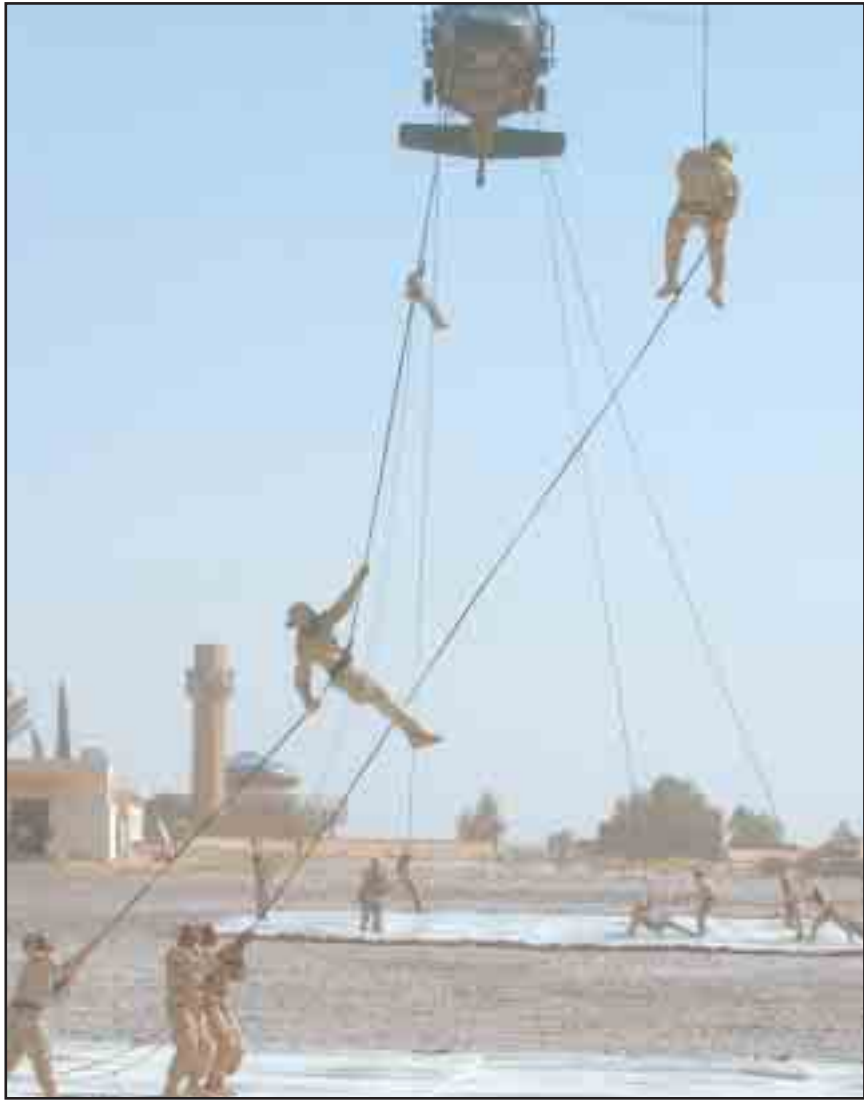


Photo by Scott Curtis

Airborne assault students rappel from a helicopter during training in Iraq last fall.

away from the daily grind at their units and attend air assault school. This was a much-needed change of pace for all the Soldiers.

We presented new challenges to these Soldiers, primarily academic, and gave them a safe environment to train and be students.

All our students came to the school having matured from the stresses of a combat zone. Our students patrolled the streets of Mosul, encountered improved explosive devices driving out of the gate at their company area or during a logistics re-supply (logistics convoy), or saw comrades critically injured or even killed from a rocket propelled grenade ambush.

Nevertheless, every Soldier did superbly and never complained. We were honored to take the school to them, train them and pin their wings on — a historical moment for them personally and for the division.

What were the disadvantages of taking training to the

troops in Iraq?

None. It was a win-win situation for the school and the division's Soldiers — that's why the division's leadership said, "Go!"

Why was this training considered a morale booster?

It was different, a break, another challenge, a personal and professional goal for our student Soldiers. Besides, we had the best show hall in Iraq!

Do you think the Army will do this type of training in a warring country again? Why or why not?

Absolutely! The 101st has always trained in combat — from conducting training jumps in England during WWII; setting up the Pathfinder School in England to meet division's need for Pathfinders, having the Recondo School and Survival, Escape, Resistance Training School during Vietnam; conducting experimental slingload training during Operation Desert Storm; and now the Air Assault School in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Did you gain anything unexpected from the training?

I was most impressed by everyone's ability to quickly adapt and overcome change. Whether (it was) the students arriving for air assault training, the units that supported our training or my NCOs who did the training, all managed to find the best solution and accomplish the mission with a high degree of efficiency and the air assault "can-do" attitude.

BRASHEAR (Continued from Page 1)

two soldiers who met me thought I had already been sworn in and started giving me a hard time.

"Since I hadn't been sworn in, I decided I didn't want to join the Army. So, I caught a bus and went down to Elizabethtown and walked into the Navy recruiter's office. They talked real kind to me and gave me the entrance exam — on which I scored very high. I went to Louisville and got sworn in and then they started yelling at me. So, that's how I got in the Navy. It wasn't meant for me to be in the Army. My calling was in the Navy.

Making his mark

"After basic training, I didn't think I would be mistreated. I thought I'd be mistreated in basic training, everybody is. After I finished basic training, we had to go to the colored facilities to live. We couldn't live with the whites. And, we could only go swimming half a day a week. I was a steward — a cook — that's all blacks could be, and that was a little bit disheartening to me. So, one day I thought, 'I'm a red-blooded American just like everyone else,' and I went swimming with the whites. That was a stepping-stone to get me out of the steward ranks."

Because he could outswim everyone on his ship, he became a Navy diver in 1949 — within a year of his enlistment.

"When I joined the Navy, I knew I had to do a lot of studying to advance myself," Brashear said. "So, I spent a lot of time in the library. That's where I met my wife, who was working at the library while (she was) in school and spent a lot of time studying with me there. So, that's how I furthered my education."

Along with studying, to maintain a high physical standard, Brashear swam, ran and worked out in a gym.

"I lifted weights, did calisthenics and just kept myself in top-notch physical condition," he said. "A lot of times I would go to the gym just to relieve stress. Then I would go to the library and my mind would be clear."

Brashear joined the Navy in 1948 and completed his GED around 1954. After retiring from the Navy, he received an associates degree. He later retired from federal civil service as an environmental specialist for the Navy. He said he took the "hard road."

Selling his story

"People in Hollywood, when they first circulated the script (for 'Men of Honor'), thought it was all fiction," he said. "They couldn't believe that any human being could be a deep-sea diver, who was an amputee. They didn't think that a seventh-grade student could excel in the Navy or even advance in the Navy."

After about 10 years Hollywood was convinced, and in 2000 the movie hit the box office. How has it impacted Brashear?

"My life has changed tremendously since 'Men of Honor' came out," he said. "I get recognized just about everywhere I go now. People want autographs and want to talk. Everyone usually asks the same questions about the movie — 'How much of the movie was true? How did you get involved in the movie? Did you write a book? Did I have any say-so over who



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

On the walls of his Virginia Beach home, Carl Brashear displays memorabilia of his numerous accomplishments.

played me? And, then I'm asked to go on the speaker's circuit. I have an agent who would program my speaking engagements. I spoke up until this year, and quit."

Concerning speaking engagements, he said his talks depended on the program of the organization.

"At diversity workshops, I would tell my story and interject my background working with diverse people and cultures," Brashear said. "Mostly, they want to hear my story completely — how I joined the Navy with a seventh grade education and excelled to become a master chief petty officer and a master diver."

Of the movie, he said that 80 percent of it is accurate.

"The submarine incident was total fabrication," Brashear said. "There wasn't anything else in the storyline that wasn't true, but they dramatized the storyline. For example, when they cut the tool bag and my tools were scattered, I stayed in the water over nine hours and put my project together. The only difference was that it actually happened during the daytime. They showed it happening at night. So, the story line was still there. I started about 7 o'clock in the morning and they brought me up about four in the afternoon. You see, the storyline was there, just dramatized."

Making a difference

The positive influence of "Men of Honor" has been exhibited from rural America to many countries overseas. Brashear has become an ambassador, of sorts, for the Navy.

"I've toured all of the high schools in my county (in Kentucky) and once in a while I get a telephone call saying one of those students has gone in the Navy because of me," he said.

"My nephew who lives in Atlanta, Ga., said that he was in a Target one day when a woman right behind him struck up a conversation. She said that she needed to get home in a hurry because her son was leaving to go in the Navy. My nephew said that he asked why her son picked the Navy, as opposed to the Army, Marine Corps or the Air Force. She told him that he had watched this movie called, 'Men of Honor,' and from that he wanted to go in the Navy."

The Navy has changed because of one man's determination to remain on active

duty despite the loss of the lower part of one leg.

"Well, the good Lord changed the Navy, not me," Brashear said. "They look at people through a different type of eyes now, all kinds of people. The Navy has changed by not just across-the-board medically discharging people with a disability because they can still be productive."

"We used to have a soldier at Fort Monroe who was an amputee, and he cited me as the reason he wanted to stay in. And, they let him stay in. The Marine Corps also has amputees."

"Men of Honor" has been enthusiastically received worldwide — Brashear has opened the movie in England, Australia, Germany and Japan.

"Even Japan changed," he said. "Japan has a program called JULIA — Japan Underwater Leaders and Instructors Association — that was developed as a result of my accomplishments. Its mission is to train Japanese amputees to be scuba divers. In 2002, I was the keynote speaker (for JULIA) in Tokyo where the auditorium was full of scuba divers in wheel chairs and on crutches."

Concerning fame, he said: "I don't feel any different. I don't feel that I'm a hero or a celebrity. I'm just the same old person. Real estate salesmen come by expecting me to buy a bigger house. I say, 'I don't know why, I haven't gotten any bigger. I don't need more space.' It is a good feeling to have your accomplishments shown on the big, silver screen."

Of the people impacting his military career, the character Billy Sunday stands out in the movie. But, did Robert DeNiro accurately portray him?

"Yes he did," Brashear said. "Billy Sunday was a hard charging, drinking, fighting little man. He was doing his job — trying to get me to quit, to break down my spirit and to make me angry enough to get kicked out of the Navy. But, I prepared myself for the opportunity he presented. I prepared myself with a good attitude, that no matter what they threw at me, I was going to overcome it."

"One person can make a change ... If you are dedicated, persevere and, most of all, keep a good attitude, you can excel in life. Set your goals and work towards those goals with all your might. Never try to get angry, never curse," Brashear said was what he hoped people received from the movie.



Photo by Scott Curtis

A group of students listen to 101st Airborne Assault NCOs in the Iraqi desert "classroom" during the fall of 2003.

Sports and health

Bowling pro shop opens

BY TIM RAFALSKI
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Chip Wikan wasted little time making an impact when he took over managing duties at the Fort Monroe Bowling Center in late September of last year. The improvements haven't stopped, either.

Wikan's latest upgrade was unveiled Jan. 24, when he opened the bowling center's new pro shop.

"The first day that I took the job, I knew that I'd wind up having a pro shop," Wikan said. "I took over Sept. 29, but we didn't begin (building) — didn't have a chance, really, because the status of the machinery was in such bad shape when I got here — I didn't get a chance to begin executing it until the third week of December."

In roughly a month, Wikan and staff member Pete Discenza turned a locker section in the back of the center into a one-stop shopping spot for community bowlers. Aside from a wide variety of balls and other bowling equipment, Wikan has added a new \$3,500 ball-resurfacing machine.

"We built up the stud wall, the door, created the entire area," said Wikan, a former PBA Tour competitor. "We've got the best pricing in Tidewater, and we really have a lot more stock and inventory than any other military (pro shops)."

Wikan also was quick to point out the level of service customers can expect.

"I owned four pro shops for 10



Photo by Tim Rafalski

Aside from a wide variety of balls, including these specialty ones, a \$3,500 ball-resurfacing machine has been added to the bowling center.

years, and Pete has run pro shops for AMF for a number of years as well as being the Team USA silver-certified coach," he said. "So, we've got, really, without trying to sound too egotistical, the two best drillers on the peninsula in house here."

Wikan isn't going to stop at having just a bowling pro shop, though.

"We start with the bowling, but eventually we're going to have this being a sports shop," he said. "If you need golf balls, we'll have golf balls. A lot of kids are playing soccer — we'll have soccer balls. People are buying softballs somewhere. MWR is missing a lot of their ancillary income sales by people having to go off the post in order to get the

things they need."

■ **Bowling center hours** — Opens at 8 a.m. Monday through Friday, closing between 10 and 11 p.m., depending on traffic. Opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday, closing no earlier than 11 p.m.

■ **Leagues** — There is a league every day of the week except Thursday, including a juniors league Saturday mornings.

"Thursday night is the only night right now where we don't have a regular league or tournament event," said Wikan. "If there's anybody out there that has something that they'd like to do on a Thursday night on a regular basis, we're more than happy to listen to them."

FLAG FOOTBALL

Showtime shines to take title

BY SSGT. THOMAS SCOTT

The Fort Monroe flag football team won the Peninsula Military Championship in the single-elimination tournament held here Jan. 24.

Fort Eustis was represented by its post champion, 551, and 1058 Trans Company. The Navy was represented by the USS Ronald Reagan, while the Coast Guard and Air Force were not represented.

The tournament started with team Showtime from Fort Monroe facing 1058 Trans Company in the opening game. Showtime fell behind 13-0 early, but quarterback Thomas Scott guided the squad downfield and threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Eric Hill to close the gap to 13-7 at halftime.

Showtime received the ball in the second half, and took a 14-13 lead on a 10-yard touchdown run by Scott and an extra-point pass from Scott to Kareem Terrell.

On the ensuing possession, 1058th quarterback Michael Bostic

drove his team down the field for a score and a 19-14 lead.

Showtime got the ball back, and Scott tossed a 50-yard touchdown to Hill for a 21-19 lead.

Clinging to a slim lead, Showtime's defense finally shut down 1058th with a crucial interception by James Dix, and the offense followed with another touchdown pass from Scott to Terrell to close out a 26-19 victory.

In the second game, the defending Fort Eustis champs, 551, defeated USS Ronald Reagan's team in overtime to set up an all-Army showdown between Showtime and 551 in the championship game.

These two teams played against each other last year during the Fort Eustis intramural season, and Fort Monroe dominated that game, winning 30-16. So, both teams were very familiar with each other.

The championship game was hindered as strong winds and cold weather got worse. Showtime got on the board first with a 1-yard touch-

down run by Scott as his offensive line destroyed Fort Eustis' defensive front and opened a gaping hole for the quarterback to run through to take a 6-0 lead.

The weather made it very difficult for either team to move the ball, and Showtime maintained its lead until Fort Eustis scored with 10 seconds left in the game to send the championship showdown into overtime.

Led by Shawn Murray, Showtime's defense only allowed 5 yards of total offense in overtime, as the offense tacked on the winning score in a 12-7 victory.

After the game, Fort Monroe players received the Peninsula Military Championship trophy from sports director John Tutson, as well as the Langley Intramural regular-season championship trophy. Showtime completed the regular season with a 13-1 record.

The Showtime football season will start again early this spring. The team will travel to Clinton, Md., on March 27 and 28 for the Spring NIT.

Anybody interested in playing for Showtime should contact SSgt. Scott at 788-5384 or 303-4397.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Adult softball

Post-level male and female softball players are needed for the 2004 season. Any interested men should contact John Tutson at 878-2084 or 719-5934. Women can contact Karen Dill at 788-4593 or Karen.dill@us.army.mil.

Country bowling

Every Saturday night in February the Fort Monroe Bowling Center will be running a country bowling program with dollar drafts, free shoe rentals and country music. Lanes can be rented for \$10 per hour.

Rugby clubs

■ The Norfolk Blues Rugby Club is seeking players of all experience levels for its spring season. Practice begins Feb. 12 and is every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. at Crossroads Elementary School in Norfolk. For more info, contact Kevin Inglin at 726-0407.

■ The Newport News Rugby Club needs players for the spring season. Practices are Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. at Flora Crittenden Middle School. For more info, contact Matt Weir at 871-3861.

Running events

■ The Penguin Classic "Angel Flight" 5K run/walk is scheduled for Feb. 14 in Virginia Beach. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. at the 25th St. Park. The cost of the race is \$22, and you can pre-register by calling Jerry Dorre at 271-2287.

■ The 5K Cross Country Challenge is on tap for Feb. 23 at Virginia Wesleyan College at 9 a.m.

The early-entry fee, postmarked by Feb. 14, is \$12 for non-Tidewater Strider members and \$8 for members. The fee is \$15 after Feb. 14. To register, contact Ron Jones at 467-0520.

3-on-3 hoops tourney

The Old Hampton Community Center will host an "Old School vs. Young Bucks" 3-on-3 basketball tournament Feb. 23 starting at 5:30 p.m. Old school players must be between ages 25 and 40, while young bucks must be 15 to 24. The cost is \$6 per team. For more info, contact James Brewer at 727-1125.

INTRAMURAL HOOPS

Recent Results

The Fort Monroe 2 team won twice in the last week to improve its record to 5-5 in the season. It knocked off AMXS 42-38 on Jan. 28, then scored a 46-38 win over EMS on Feb. 2.

Upcoming Schedule

Friday, Feb. 6
Fort Monroe 1 vs. SFS 2, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 10
Fort Monroe 2 vs. LRS 2, 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 12
Fort Monroe 1 vs. EMS, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 17
Fort Monroe 2 vs. CS 1, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 18
Fort Monroe 2 vs. ACC/RSS, 8:30 p.m.

Moat notes

Cultural discussion

The Newsome House Museum & Cultural Center will host a session with Richard West of the Transitions exhibit Feb. 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. Ward will discuss his motivations, processes and themes, as well as demonstrate the creation of a worksong sculpture.

The free session is open to teens and adults, but reservations are required by Feb. 25.

The Richard Ward Exhibit, which runs from Feb. 14 to April 30, is a multimedia exhibit of paintings and sculptures using historic and everyday life themes.

The Newsome House is open for tours Mondays and Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. It is located at the corner of 28th Street and Oak Avenue in Newport News.

For more information call 247-2360/2380 or visit www.newsome-house.org.

Senior Games

The 2004 Virginia Senior Games will be held in Virginia Beach this May. The event is open to individuals age 50 and older.

Events for the games are both physical and social, and include archery, swimming, track & field, canasta, croquet, table tennis, bowling, billiards, tennis, shuffleboard and more. Participants are separated into age groups with five-year age increments, starting with 50 to 54.

If you are interested in forming a team or competing in an individual sport, call 727-1602.

'Freedom Won' program

The Endview Plantation will host "Freedom Won: African-Americans in the Civil War," on Feb. 14 and 15. It is a military and civilian living-history program highlighting the African-American experience during the Civil War.

The Endview Plantation, which is located at 362 Yorktown Road in Newport News, is open for tours on Mondays and Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. Tours are hosted every 30 minutes, and the cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children ages 7 to 18.

For more information, call 887-1862 or visit www.endview.org.

Gypsy Swing show

The American Theatre in Hampton will be hosting "An Evening of Gypsy Swing with The Hot Club of San Francisco" on Feb. 7 at 8 p.m.

For more information or to order tickets, call 722-2787 or visit www.theamericantheatre.com.

Blind Boys of Alabama

The American Theatre in Hampton will host The Blind Boys of Alabama for shows Feb. 11 and 12. Both pure-soul gospel shows start at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale for \$35, and can be purchased by calling 722-2787 or visiting on-line at www.theamericantheatre.com.

PALATE PLEASERS



Photo by Mike Tatum

Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, post commander, (right) samples the chili of third-place finishers Col. Joseph Rodriguez (left) and his wife, Elaine, at the Casemate Community Connection's chili cookoff at the Bay Breeze Community Center on Jan. 30. The spouses of the Futures Center won first place with a recipe by Sharlene Coker, and Maj. Gregory Coile placed second.

ROCKS meeting

The Hampton Roads chapter of ROCKS Inc. will hold its general-membership meeting Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Hampton University in the Armstrong-Slater Hall of the Army ROTC Department.

The guest speaker will be Mike Rogers, a tax advisor from Hampton. Active, reserve and retired commissioned and warrant officers are welcome, and junior officers are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Chuck Holden at 836-3970.

Valentines gift shop

The Casemate Community Connection will set up its Valentine's Day gift shop at the Fitness Center on Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Among the items available will be Fort Monroe pottery, tea towels, pot holders, Cat's Meows and afghans.

Warrant meeting

The Hampton Roads Chapter of the Warrant Officer Association will be holding its monthly meeting at the Fort Monroe Marina (upstairs at Thumpers Restaurant) from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 19.

Culinary competition

The 29th annual Army Culinary Arts Competition is scheduled to take place at Fort Lee from Feb. 28 to March 12. The competition is open to the public March 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. and March 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. An awards ceremony will be held March 12 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Admission to the competition is free. For more information, contact the Fort Lee Public Affairs Office at (804) 734-7451 or visit www.quartermaster.army.mil/aces/.

Volunteers needed

■ CONTACT, a 24-hour crisis hotline, is starting volunteer training Feb. 28 at the CONTACT house. Training sessions are every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, and will last nine weeks. Topics will include depression, loneliness, substance abuse, mental disorders and more.

For more information, call 244-0594.

■ Volunteers are needed to help with scheduled activities for seniors at the Hiddenwood Retirement Community.

Help is needed for the following positions: calling bingo on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m.; serving refreshments at monthly birthday party on the last Monday of each month at 2 p.m.; playing the piano or another musical instrument at monthly birthday party; serving ice cream sundaes at monthly ice cream social held the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m.; playing the piano at weekly coffee social Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.

For more information on volunteering, contact Marie Hinton at 788-4344.

■ Hampton elementary schools are asking for volunteers to come read to children in grades kindergarten through fifth. For more information or to volunteer, contact Charlie French at 788-4673 or Marie Hinton at 788-4344.

Afternoon film series

The Williamsburg Regional Library's new Thursday afternoon film series is running a month-long tribute to romance. Every Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. the library will screen a classic romance movie.

Upcoming movies includes "An Affair to Remember" on Feb. 12, "The Way We Were" on Feb. 19 and "Ghost" on Feb. 26.

Reservations are not needed, and the admission is free. For more information, call 259-4050.

Comedy fest

The Crown Royal Comedy Fest, featuring Rickey Smiley, is scheduled for Feb. 13 at Chrysler Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$52 the day of the show, and can be purchased at all area Ticketmaster locations. You can also order tickets by phone at 671-8100 or on-line at ticketmaster.com.

Yoga classes

Followers of American yoga master Geshe Michael Roach will share yoga techniques and ideas from the newly published book "The Tibetan Book of Yoga" at both the James City and Williamsburg libraries.

Sessions will be held at the James City County Library Kitzinger Community Room on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m., and at the Williamsburg Library Theatre on Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.

Both sessions and lectures are free, and reservations are no needed. For more information, call 259-4070.

Black History Afternoon

The Hampton Parks and Recreation Department and the Hampton History Museum are sponsoring a Black History Afternoon talk Feb. 19 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Hampton Senior Center.

The program is open to the public. For more information, contact Beverly Thomas 727-1602.

Scholarship Finder

Military.com announced the release of their interactive Scholarship Finder 2.0 (www.military.com/scholarship), which helps service members, veterans and their families locate over 1,000 military-related scholarships, representing over \$300 million.

Users input search parameters to identify applicable scholarships from a variety of sources, including the military, various institutions and veteran and service organizations.

For more information, contact Pete DeLaunon at (415) 433-0999, ext. 238.

Jewelry classes

The Old Hampton Community Center is offering beginners and advance jewelry classes Feb. 16 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The course is designed for students of all ages, and participants will learn how to make their own designer jewelry for all occasions.

The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers, and includes your own tool kit, beads, clasps to complete the set and findings for designer bracelet and earring sets.

The registration deadline is Feb. 13. For more information, contact James Brewer Jr. at 727-1125.

Slips available

Slips are now available from the expansion for the Old Point Comfort Marina. For more information contact Theresa Grogan at 788-4308.

(See MOAT NOTES, Page 15)

Dashboard is on the way

Program will put post info at your fingertips

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

The post commander's dashboard isn't just located in his car — it's on his computer.

Just as a car's dashboard keeps the driver alerted to the vehicle's operations through gauges and indicators, the commander's dashboard has indicators designed to keep him abreast of post operations.

The dashboard is divided into four sections: strategic planning, commander's initiatives, mission-essential task list (METL) and hot issues.

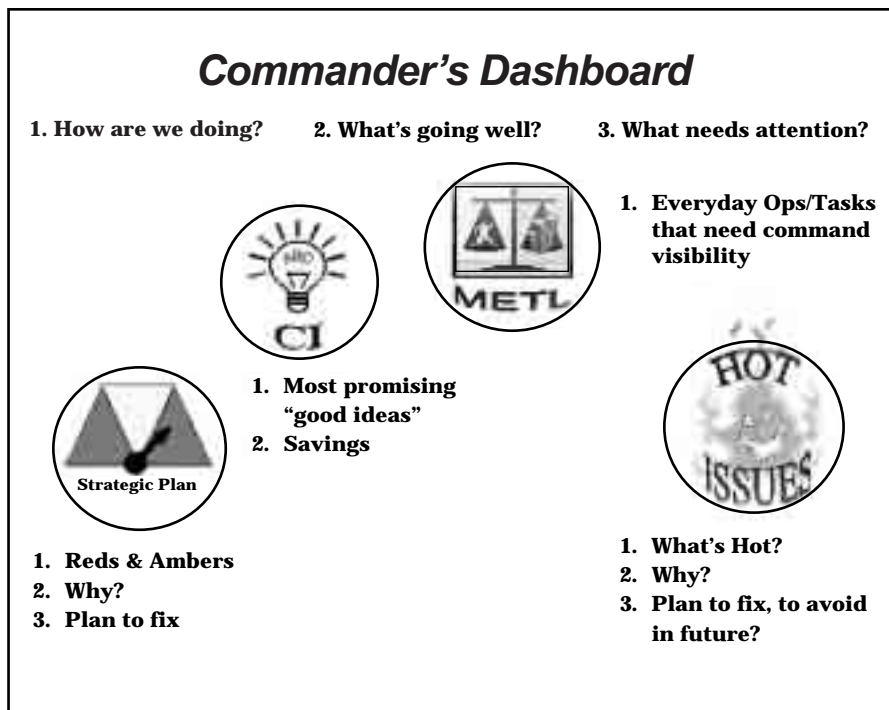
"These combine to tell how we are doing, what's going well and what needs improvement," said Cliff Whitehouse, chief of plans, analysis and integration.

The strategic plan captures the major objectives and concerns of post management.

At a glance, the dashboard shows the total number of red, amber and green objectives in the strategic plan. Red indicates those that are not working, amber for those that are somewhat working and green for those that are working well.

The commander's initiatives are the activity-based costs (ABCs). This section is designed for cost management.

"How that has worked is we asked the larger directorates to come up with some ideas to save



money or make them (the activities) more productive," Whitehouse said. After compiling the list, "we came up with models for those ideas that should improve savings. It's working very well."

The next part is everyday stuff, METL.

"These eight areas kind of mirror what DA is doing," Whitehouse said. "A typical item is to provide excellent base support. It's an area that is kind of meat and potatoes."

The last section is hot issues.

"The first three (strategic planning, commander's initiatives and METL) change every quarter, but this one may change weekly," Whitehouse said. "As things pop up like tearing down the Queen Anne buildings, base realignment and clo-

sure or Isabel, this part will be updated very frequently."

Whitehouse's dream is that the dashboard will appear on everyone's desktop and will be updated in real time.

"It's an advantage to managers, because everyone has something in each gauge," he said. "We want to make it available to everyone. We are concentrating on commander and director-level (personnel) at this point. We haven't had it out there long enough to know how far we need to go with it."

"This (system) is very proactive. All the information is not contained in one person's head. So, it's a balance between cyberspace and people. It takes a lot of the reaction out of managing."

Tax center opens at JAG office

It is tax season once again and the post Judge Advocate General's (JAGs) office has opened a Fort Monroe Tax Center. It is located on the 2nd floor of post Headquarters, Bldg. 77.

Tax returns are prepared and electronically filed (e-filed) by appointment through April 14.

All military ID card holders (active duty, retirees and family members) are eligible to have their tax returns prepared and e-filed through the tax center. With e-filing, taxpayers can expect overpayments to be deposited in their bank accounts in about two weeks from time of filing.

Some units have a designated unit tax advisor (UTA) who has been trained to prepare and file tax returns through the tax center. Contact the appropriate UTA to setup an appointment.

Taxpayers who prepare their own returns may download tax forms, instructions and publications from www.irs.gov. Taxpayers may also choose to prepare and e-file returns from this site. The service is free.

Links to individual states' returns can be found at www.onlinetaxpro.com/link.htm. Many states offer free e-filing on the internet as well. (The listing of these sites does not constitute an endorsement by the post JAG office or DA).

Bring W-2s, 1099 INTs and any other tax documents received to have tax returns prepared. ID card(s), social security card(s), a voided check (if desiring direct deposit) and last-year's tax return (if available) also should be brought to the appointment. For couples filing jointly, both spouses should be present. If that is not possible, bring a signed Power of Attorney for the absent spouse.

For more information contact your UTA or call the post JAG at 788-3616/2158.

MOAT NOTES

(Continued from Page 14)

Black heritage

The Williamsburg Regional Library and local community groups are celebrating Black Heritage Month with programs every Sunday in February. These hour-long programs are free, and open to all without reservations. All will be held at the library beginning at 3 p.m.

Following is a list of upcoming programs:

■ **Feb. 8** — New Zion Baptist Church presents its Acting and Dramatics Ministry in a "Celebration of Our Heritage."

■ **Feb. 15** — Classical pianist Mamon Morrison will perform.

■ **Feb. 22** — Vivian Lucas Graves presents "Theatre in a Suitcase."

■ **Feb. 29** — Master silver-smith James Curtis presents "How, Why and You Can Too!"

For more information on any of these programs, call 259-4070 or visit www.wrl.org/programs.

Bridal Show

Bay Breeze Community Center is the site for the second annual Bridal Showcase, which will be hosted by MWR Special Events on

Feb. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The show will offer every type of service needed to plan a wedding, including catering, reception sites, photographers, bands, DJs, gowns, limos, tuxedos, invitations, favors, video, overnights, honeymoons, florists and more.

Admission to the show is \$15 and includes brunch and a ticket to many door prizes.

For show information, vendor information or to register contact Maria P. Jackson at 788-3151 or 788-4029, or call the Bay Breeze Community Center at 788-5656 or 788-2406.

EFMP Family Forum

The ninth annual Joint Services Exceptional Family Member/Special Needs Awareness Forum will be held March 23 and 24 at the Quality Inn & Suites and Conference Center, located at 1809 West Mercury Blvd. in Hampton.

This forum will offer an opportunity to learn what is new in the EFMP Program, new approaches and various perspectives that families, professionals and organizations bring to maximize long-term success.

For more information or to register, call 878-3638 or e-mail shepardc@eustis.army.mil.

Masquerade Party

The Hampton Roads Chapter of The ROCKS Inc. will hold its second annual Masquerade Party II Scholarship fund raiser Feb. 27 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Fort Eustis Club.

It will be a flash back to the '70s night, with contests for best male, female and couple costumes.

Tickets cost \$10 per person in advance and \$15 at the door. For advance tickets, contact Chuck Holden at 930-4123 or e-mail holdencm2001@msn.com.

Thrift shop

The Fort Monroe Thrift Shop will be accepting spring/summer clothing starting Feb. 17. No winter clothes will be taken on or after that date.

Business hours for the Thrift Shop, which now has heat, are Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Consignments are taken from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on those days.

At the Movies

Showing at the
Langley Air Force Base Theater

Friday, Feb. 7

7 p.m. — Cheaper by the Dozen (PG)

Saturday, Feb. 8

7 p.m. — Peter Pan (PG)

Friday, Feb. 13

7 p.m. — House of Sand and Fog (R)

Saturday, Feb. 14

*2 p.m. — 50 First Dates (PG-13)

7 p.m. — The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13)

All movies at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Adults — \$2; Children 6-12 years old — \$1.50; and Children under 6 — free.

(If a child under 6 occupies a seat at a G-rated movie, admission is \$1.50.)

* Free screening, tickets available at Langley Mainstore or Burger King.

Special movie showings are available.

Contact John Low at 766-1237 or LowJ@aafes.com for details.